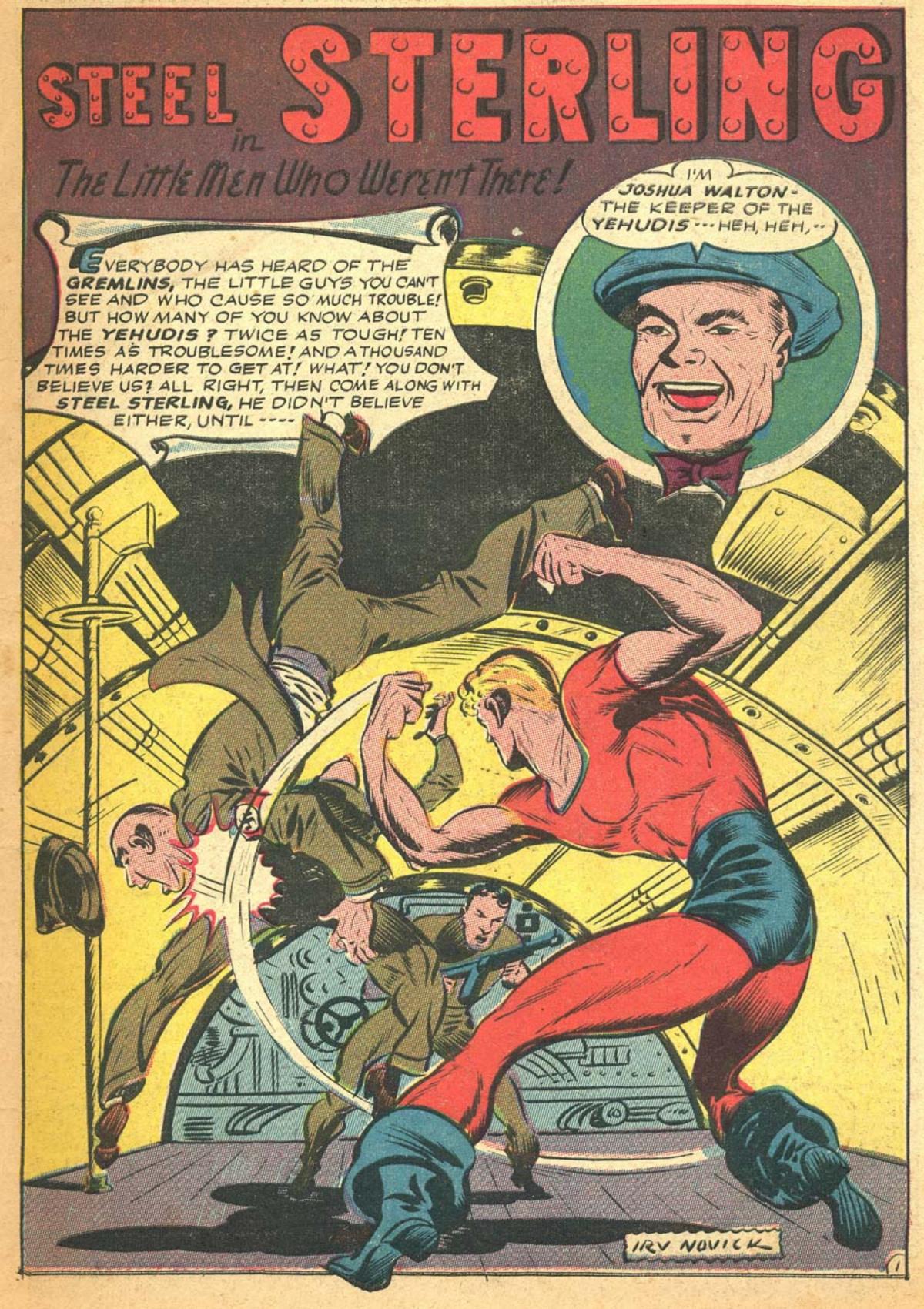
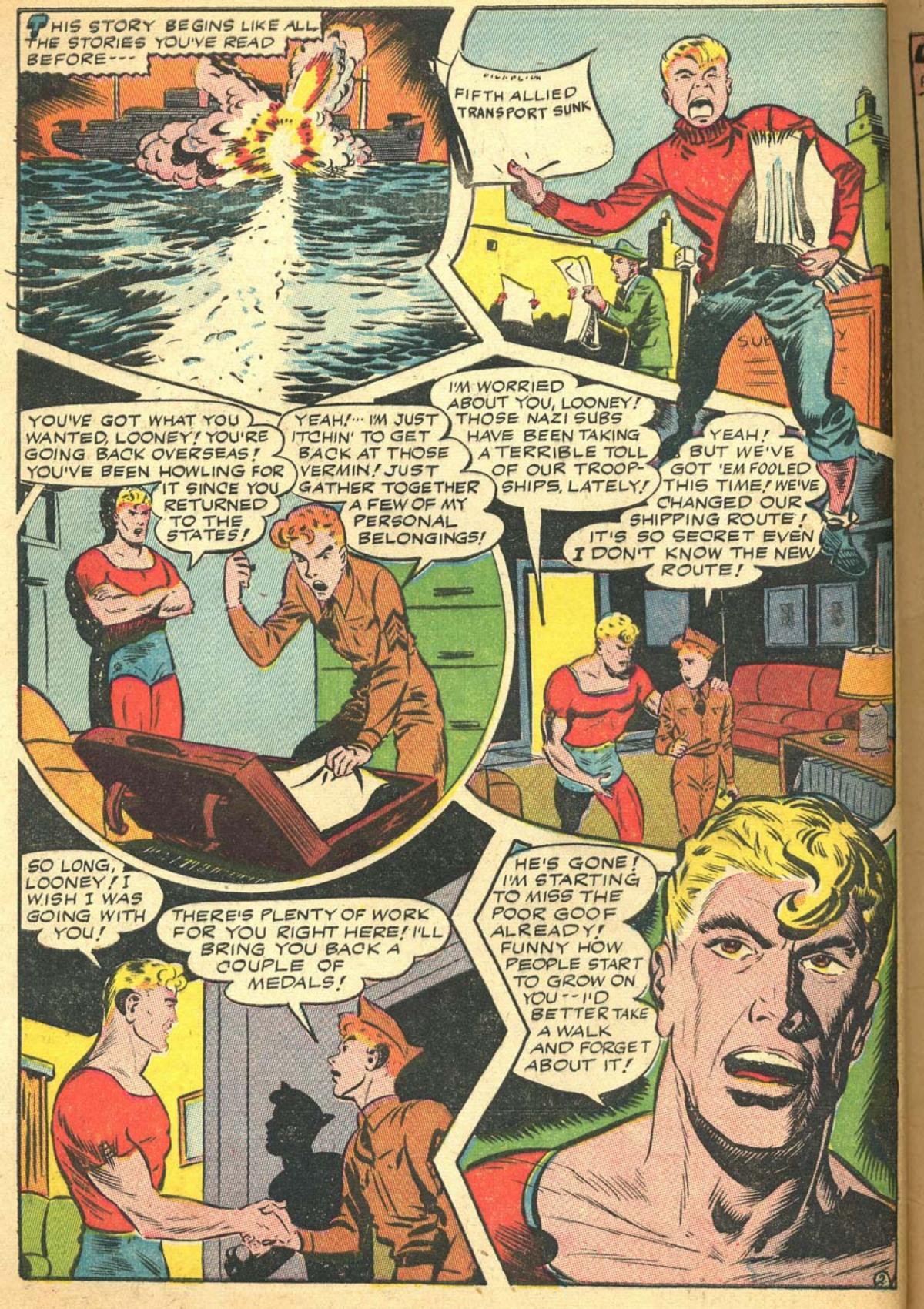
SCREAM WITH LAUGHTER AT THOSE WACKS! COMICS WARNING! TAKE A TIP 3 BALLS DON'T THROW WIN A ZIPI FOR A DIME TOMATOES



















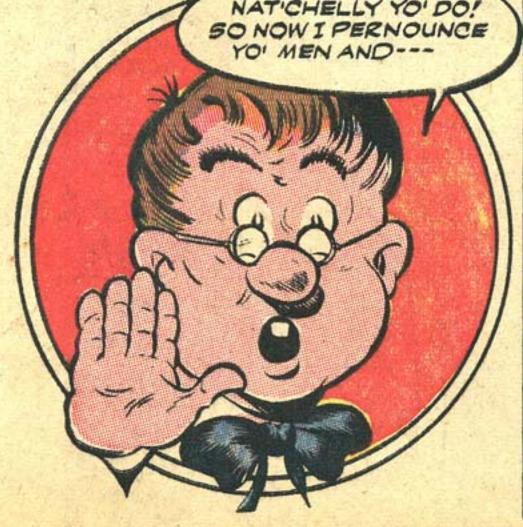


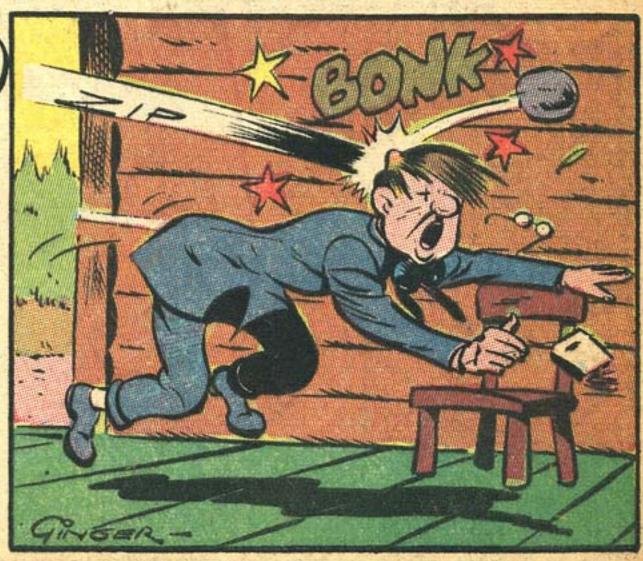


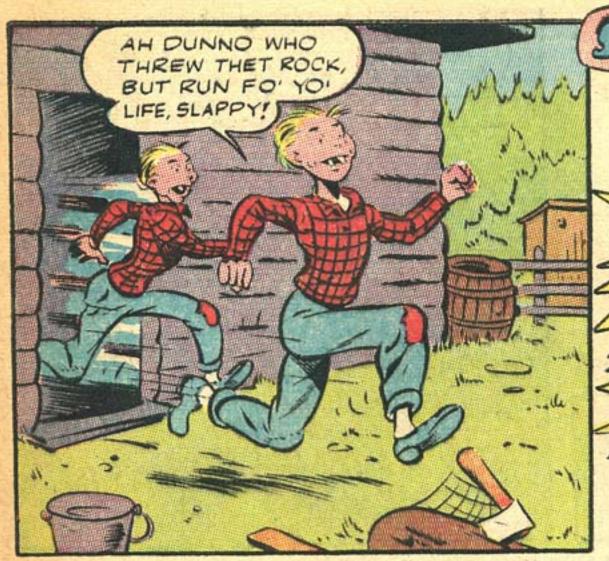


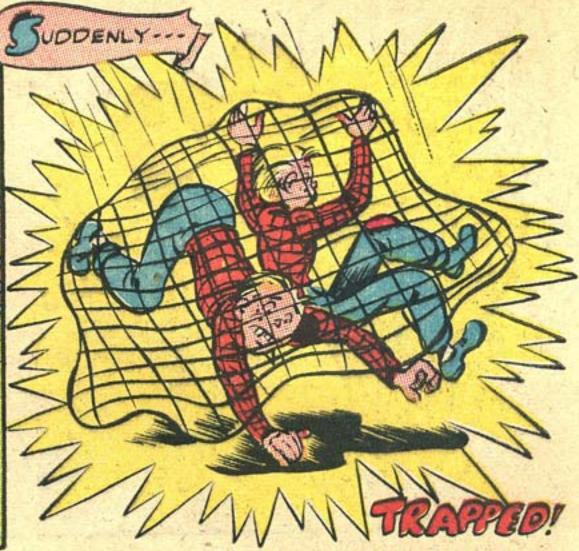


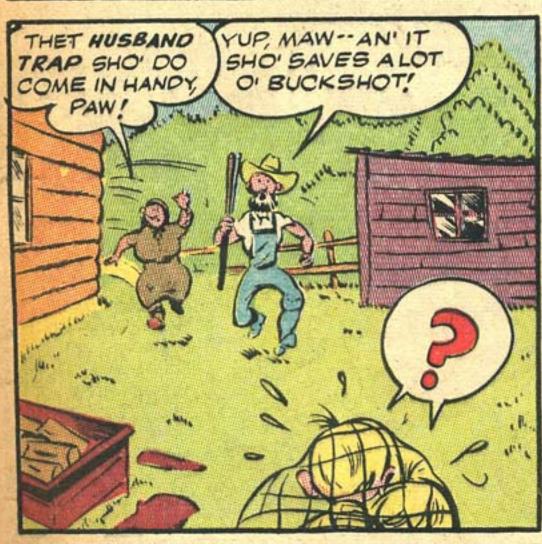








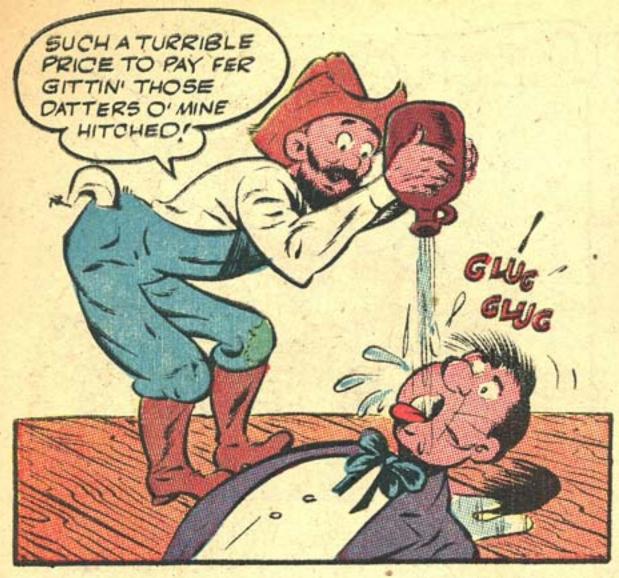




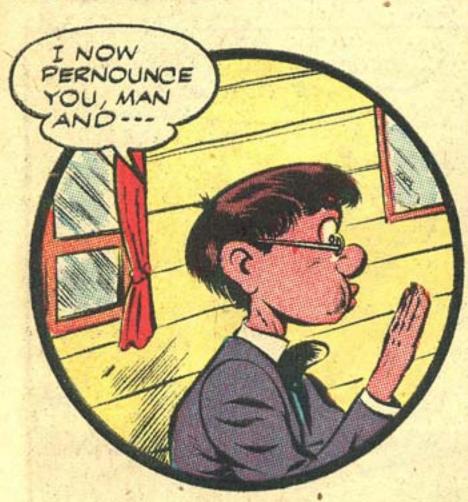


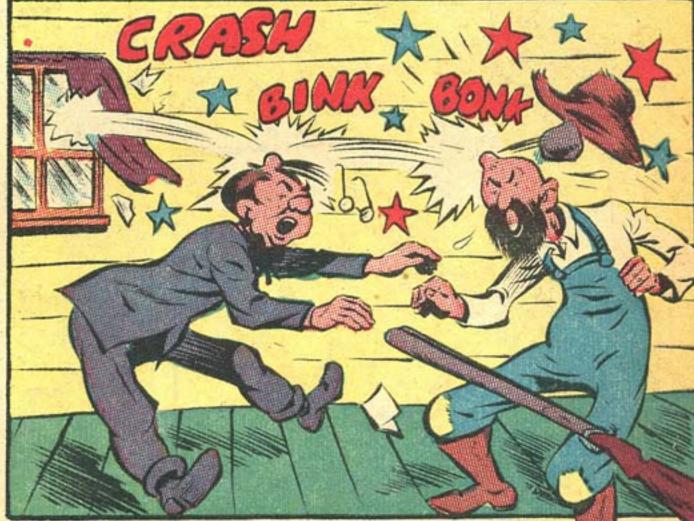


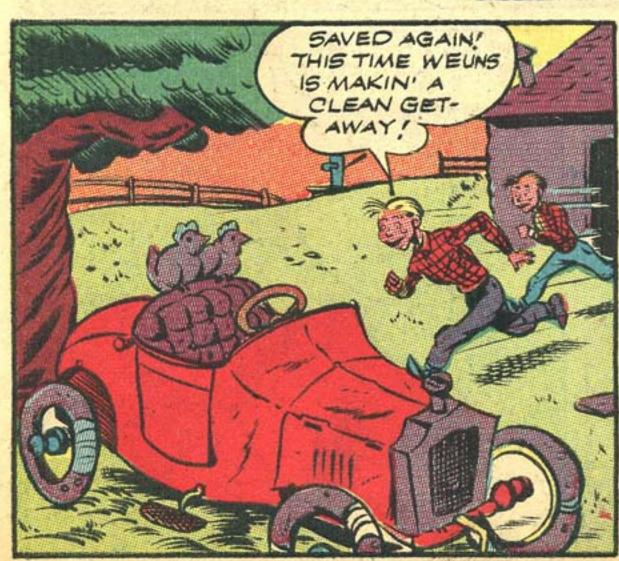








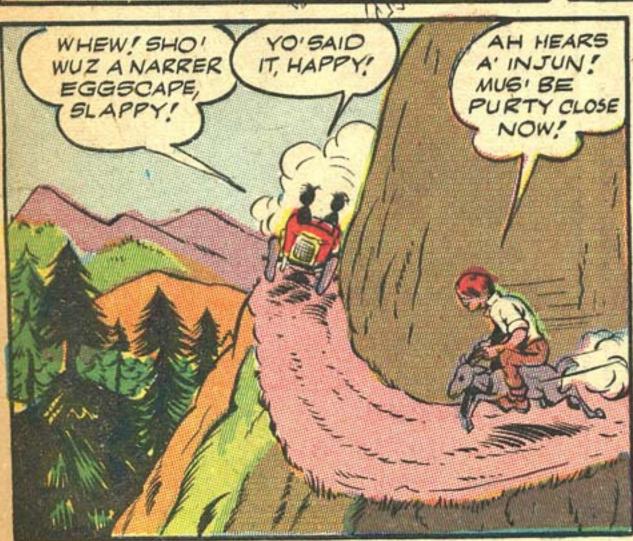




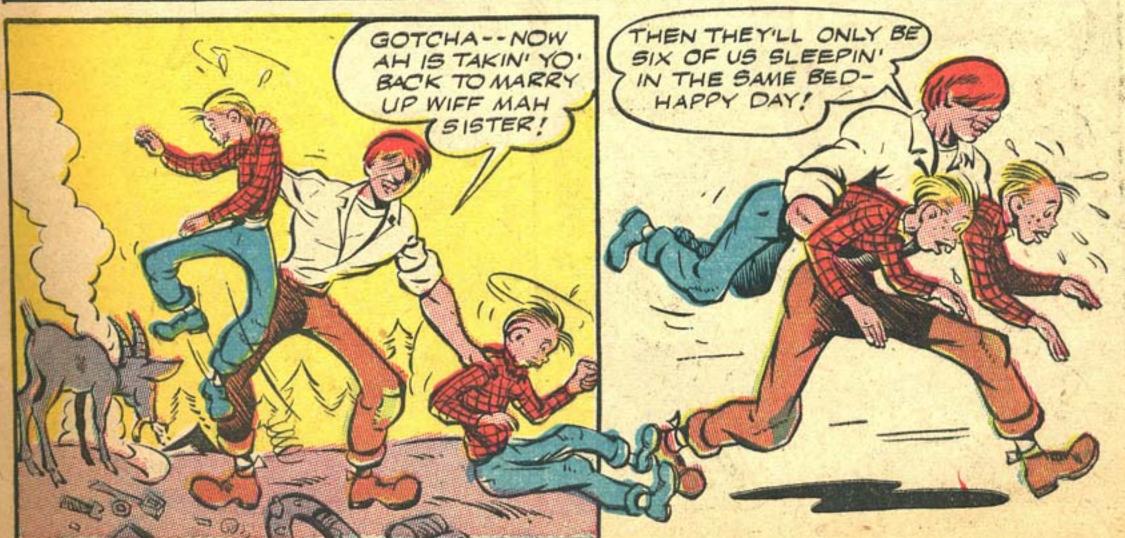


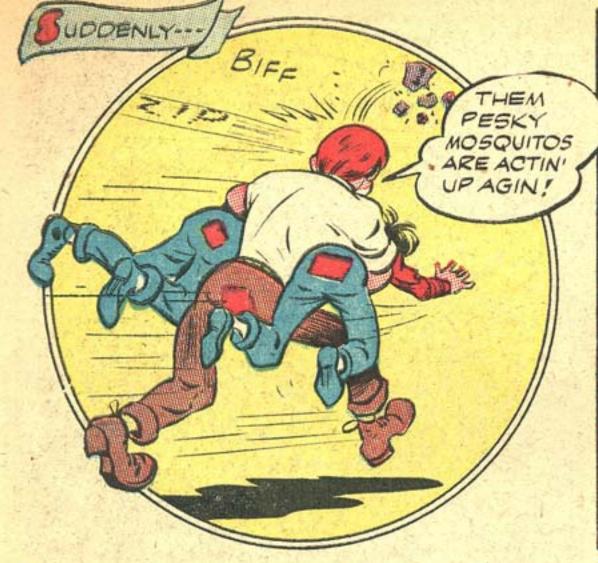














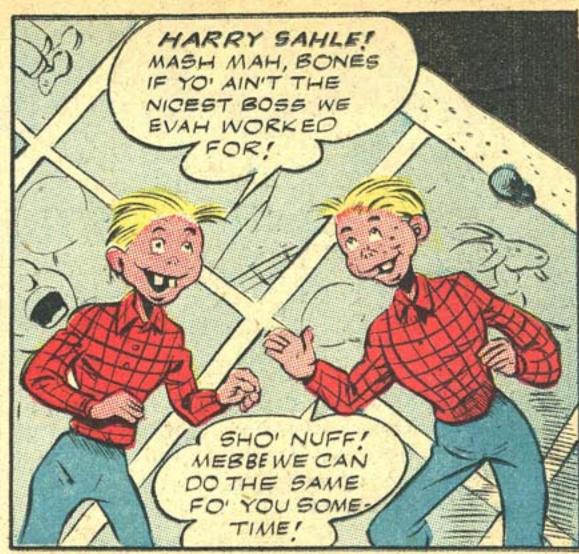




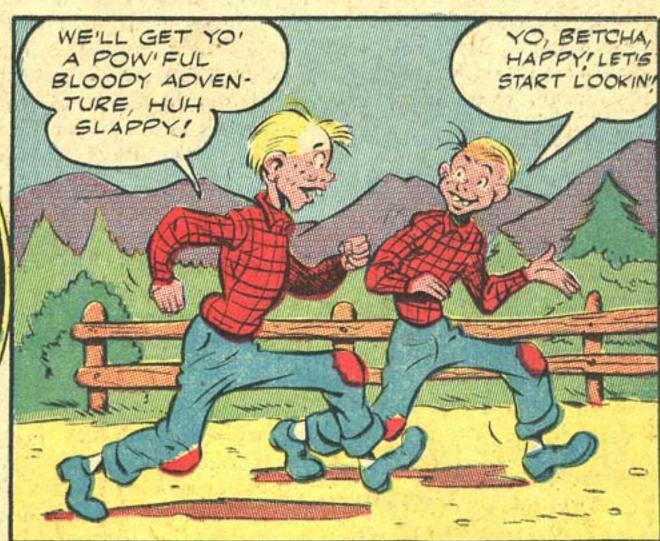
















LAST LAUGH

wherein a smart crook meets his betters

SKEETS SAMPSON walked into Mac's Diner, according to plan, and sat down at the left. It was ten to midnight and the diner was empty.

Suddenly the swinging doors, behind the center of the counter, flapped open. A small, blond man, with white coat and apron, came in.

"What'll yuh have?"

"Bacon an' eggs," ordered Skeets.

He pulled his black fedora over his eyes and kept his head lowered. The next moment stars burst in his head. The right hand of the counterman, encased in brass knuckles, had crashed against his chin.

When he had regained consciousness, ten minutes later, he was lying on the kitchen floor.

A groan from the left attracted his attention. A whitecaparisoned man was seated in a chair, bound and gagged. Skeets released him.

"Thanks, pal," said the fellow. "Did that mug get you too?"

"He didn't miss," snapped Skeets. "But he overlooked two fifties in my watch pocket. All he got was eight singles, even. Say, what is it all about?"

"Must be the same guy who slugged me. He come in here about twenty minutes before you. Ordered ham an' eggs. Next thing I knew I was smacked on the conk. Lucky I had only a few bucks in the till."

"I thought Valley Center was a nice, quiet town. Or is this the tough neighborhood?"

"It aint the neighborhood," said the other. "It's the tough eggs that come in it. This is the second time I been tapped off in two weeks. I'm gettin' scared. My health ain't so good. I should be in Arizona. If I could find a buyer I would sell this jernt at a terrible sacrifice."

"Who's Mac?" asked Skeets.

"Me. I'm Mac. And I got this trap all paid up last month. Costs me a even grand. I'd sell out for half, if I could find some guy I could trust to send me the payments."

Skeets Sampson did some quick thinking. Perhaps he could make a deal with this sap, pay a little down and, when the chump got out in Arizona, he'd keep stalling him off for the other payments. Meantime, some other sucker would drop in and buy the joint from Skeets. Swell setup!

"Live here in Valley Center?" asked Mac.

"Nope," said Skeets. "I'm headed for California."

"What's your line?"

"Oh, a little of everything. Last job I had was bouncer in a New York night club."

"Ever work in a greaseteria, like this?"

"Sure; twice. But it ain't no profit working for the other guy. If you have your own joint, okay." "How'd you like to take this one over?" asked Mac.

"That ain't the question," said Skeets. "I'd like it swell, but I ain't got the dough to take it over."

"How much can you lay down on the line?" went on Mac.

"All I have is two fifties, one hundred berries."

Mac scratched his head and did some figuring on a paper napkin.

"Tell you what I'll do," said Mac. "I'll turn the joint over to you for one hundred down, and you can easily send me fifty a month, until the whole five hundred is paid. That, so help me, is half price. I got a nice trade and all you gotta do is shove them some service."

"I'll go you," said Skeets.
"Scribble me out a bill of sale."

Mac found a sheet of paper and wrote out a crude legal document.

"This just says that you paid me one hundred bucks," explained Mac. "And that you agree to pay fifty a month for the next eight months. Brother, you got a bargain!"

"I need one," said Skeets.
But in the back of his mind
he knew there would be no
more payments. He'd hook some
passing sucker for at least \$500,
cash, then head for California.

"The milkman comes around at four," said Mac. "Get ten milk and five cream. Bread and Get fifteen white and about five rye, one whole wheat. The meat feller comes about five. This town loves hamburgers. Get fifteen pounds. I buy vegetables from three or four different fellers. Use your own judgement on that."

Mac put on his hat and coat.

"Well, so long and good luck," he said. "I think I'll be pulling out at daylight on the bus. It's gonna be Arizona or bust!"

"Drop me a line as soon as you get settled," said Skeets. "Okay," said Mac and walked out.

Skeets began to examine his bargain. Swell! How could he lose? No one knew him in Valley Center. And if nobody bought the joint from him he could always stall off the payments until Mac came rushing back from Arizona to yell for his dough. A great relief permeated the spirit of Skeets Sampson. He'd no longer have to dodge the cops. His last diner hold-up had been pulled three states to the east. Here in Valley Center he would be considered a respected and honorable citizen and businessman. Boy, what a feeling!

He opened the refrigerator and found some ham and baloney. About two pounds of butter was on the lower shelf. The joint, thought Skeets, was not overstocked. He'd have to order a load of things. He cut himself a fat slice of ham, placed it between two pieces of rye bread, and began to eat.

It was after 6 a. m. when the first customer arrived. At least, Skeets mistook him for a patron. He was a small ruddy-faced man, with several freckles on his pudgy nose.

"Where's Sweeney?" asked the caller.

"Who's Sweeney?" demanded Skeets.

Before replying the stranger squinted at Skeets suspiciously.

"Sweeney," he said, "is the man who bought this place from me two months ago. He paid me fifty dollars, down, and he was to pay fifty a month until one thousand dollars was paid. But he ain't made no second payment, yet."

"You mean Mac, not Sweeney!" snapped Skeets.

"Mac-hell!" snorted the little fellow. "I'm Mac!"

Skeets' brain began to buzz. So he was the sucker, after all!

"Say, what is this?" yelled Skeets. "It looks like the old runaround! I just bought this joint from the guy who says he was Mac!"

"Really!" sniffed the little lad. "How do I know that you and Sweeney ain't working together? Nobody ain't never took me for a chump. I think I just better call the cops and have you looked over. Runaround, hey? I think I'm the one who's getting the runaround!"

The mere mention of cops made the blood of Skeets freeze. He had been caught once. His very first job, and his finger-prints were in the tender care of the FBI.

"Well," said Skeets, "where do I stand on this phony deal? I paid that mug one hundred dollars, real dough!"

"Can I help it if you need a keeper? Anyway, I still think you and that guy are working together to gyp me out of my restaurant!"

"Okay, okay," said Skeets.
"If it's your jernt, it's your jernt. But listen, I ain't got a dime. Honest, I can't even get out of town!"

For a long moment Mac looked thoughtful.

"Well," he said finally, "I have decided to give you a break. If you promise to beat it out of town right away I'll stake you to ten bucks."

Just then the Chicago-Los Angeles bus stopped across the street.

"For seventy-fifty," went on

Mac, "that bus will take you to California. Going or stay-ing?"

"Going!" said Skeets. "Gimme the ten."

He grabbed his hat and coat and walked to the door.

"Well, s'long," Skeets said.
"S'long," echoed Mac. "Don't
forget to keep your nose clean!"

Skeets boarded the bus and took a middle seat. "Boy," he mused, "am I a prize sap!"

One hour later, two gentlemen sat in the kitchen of Mac's Diner. In the right hand of the freckled-nose bird were nine ten-dollar bills.

"There's ten for you," said he, "and there's ten for me. There's ten for me and—(say, next time don't soak a guy so hard, that simp was almost gone) — and there's ten for you—"

Quietly the kitchen door, directly in back of the two men, opened slowly. Quietly, also, the buxom figure of Sheriff Josiah Jonesby tiptoed in. As he reached the table, his two large and chubby hands streaked out like a pair of serpent's tongues and grabbed the ninety dollars.

"Now, gents," began Sheriff Jonesby, "I'll just take this as part payment on your past-due notes and also in the name of the law and John Patrick MacKilligan, the original Mac. More, since your record ain't so bright I have also been requested to take this place over at once and likewise immediately."

"What -- " began freckle-

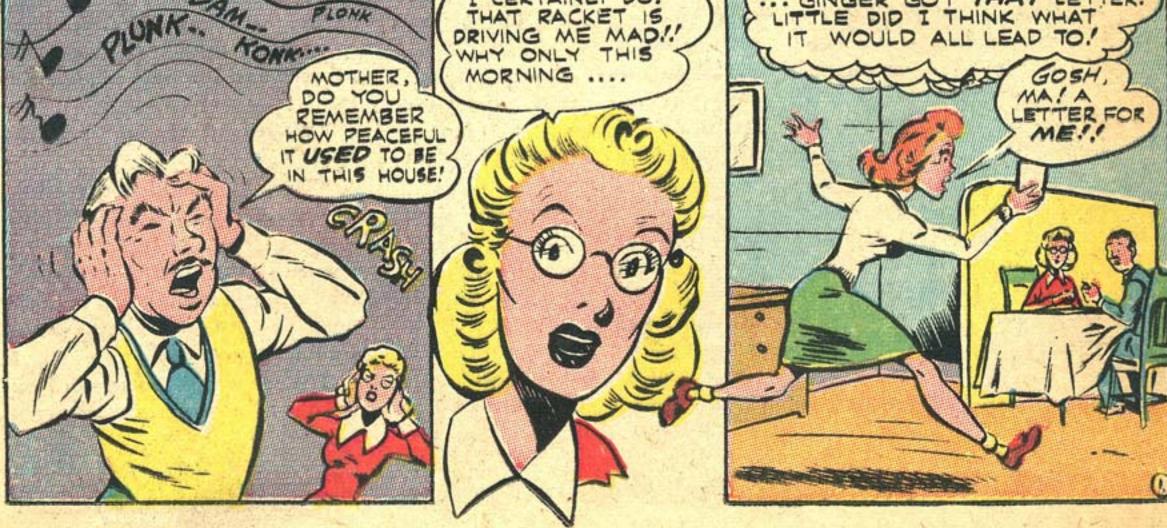
"Say—" mumbled the other.

"Furthermore and to wit,"
went on the sheriff, without
noticing the interruption, "I
would suggest that you take the
next bus out of Valley Center.
Going or staying?"

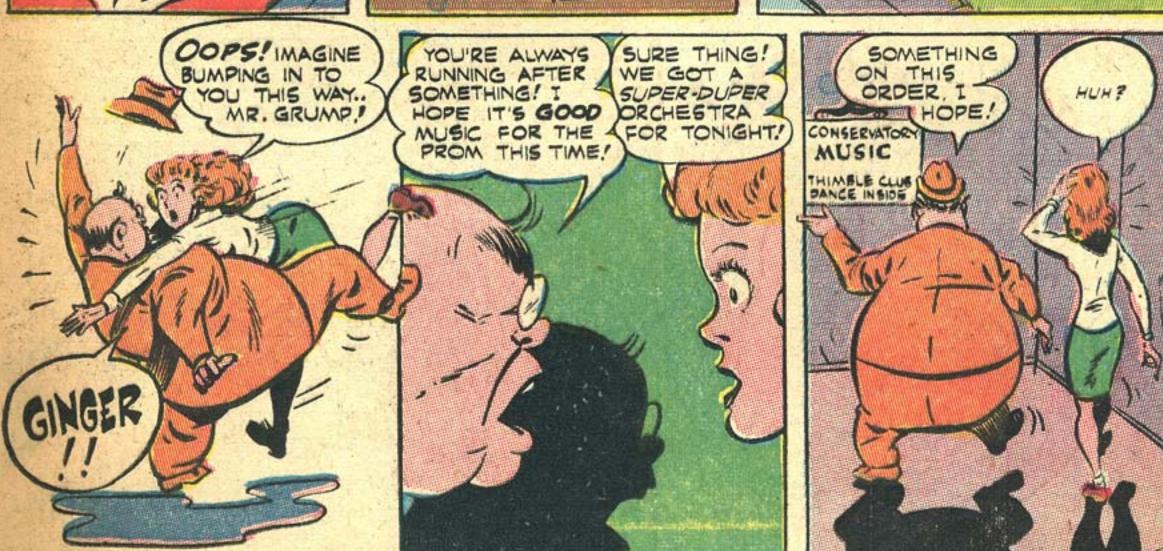
The two gentlemen exchanged knowing glances across the table.

"Going!" they said, as one

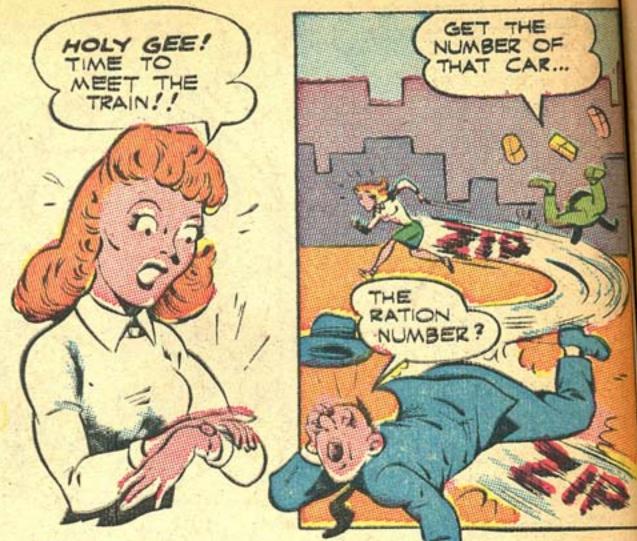


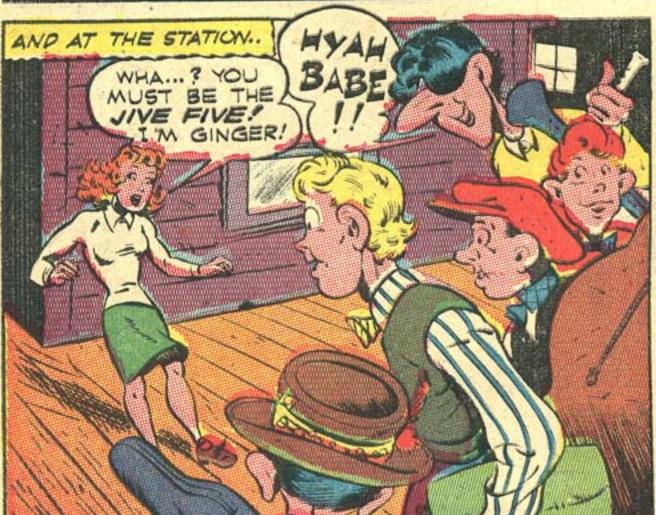




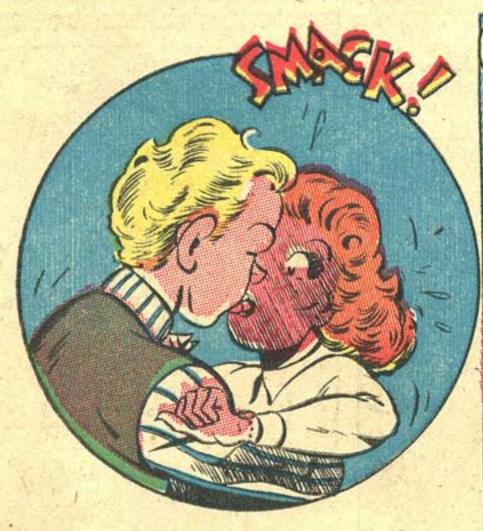




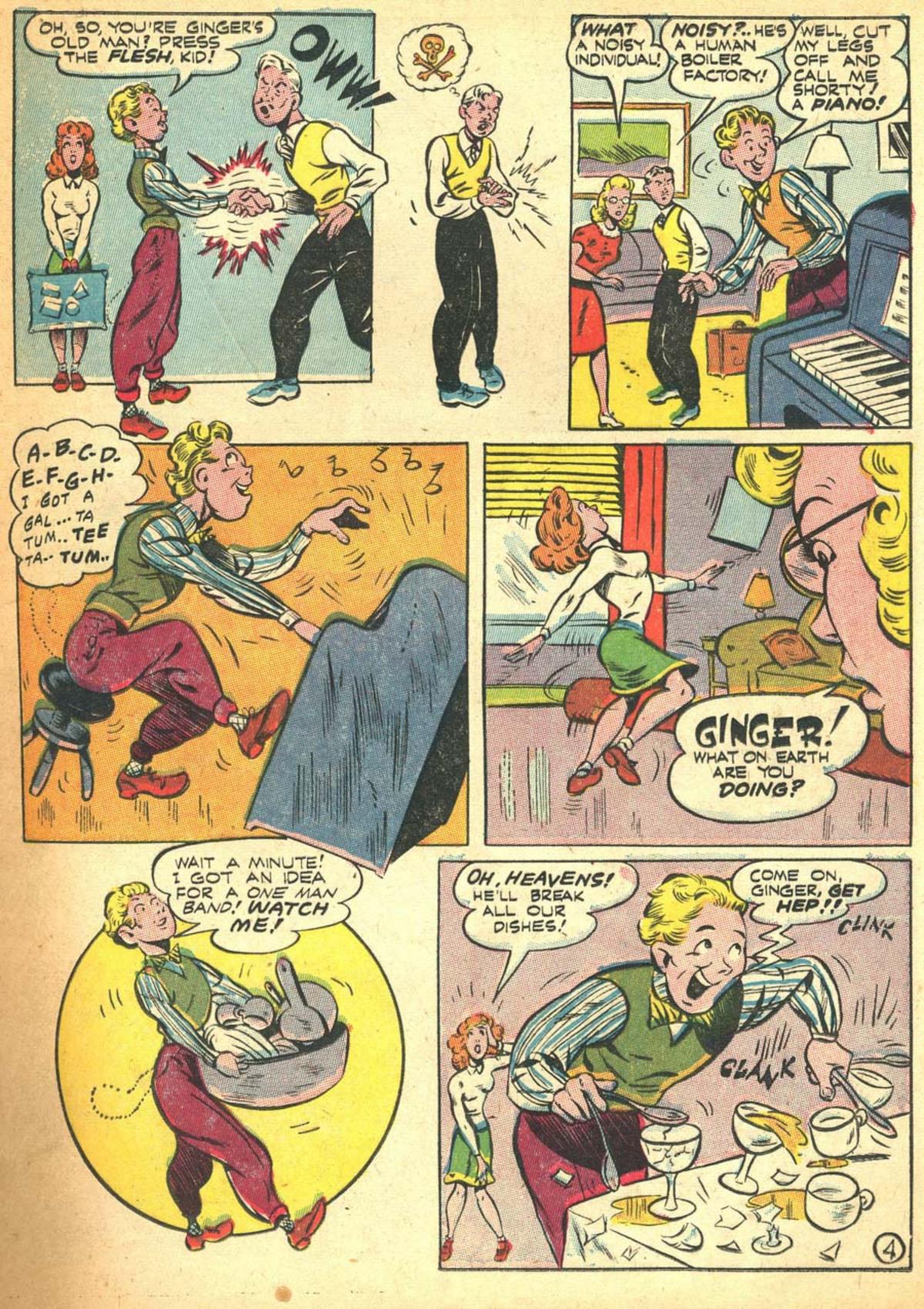
















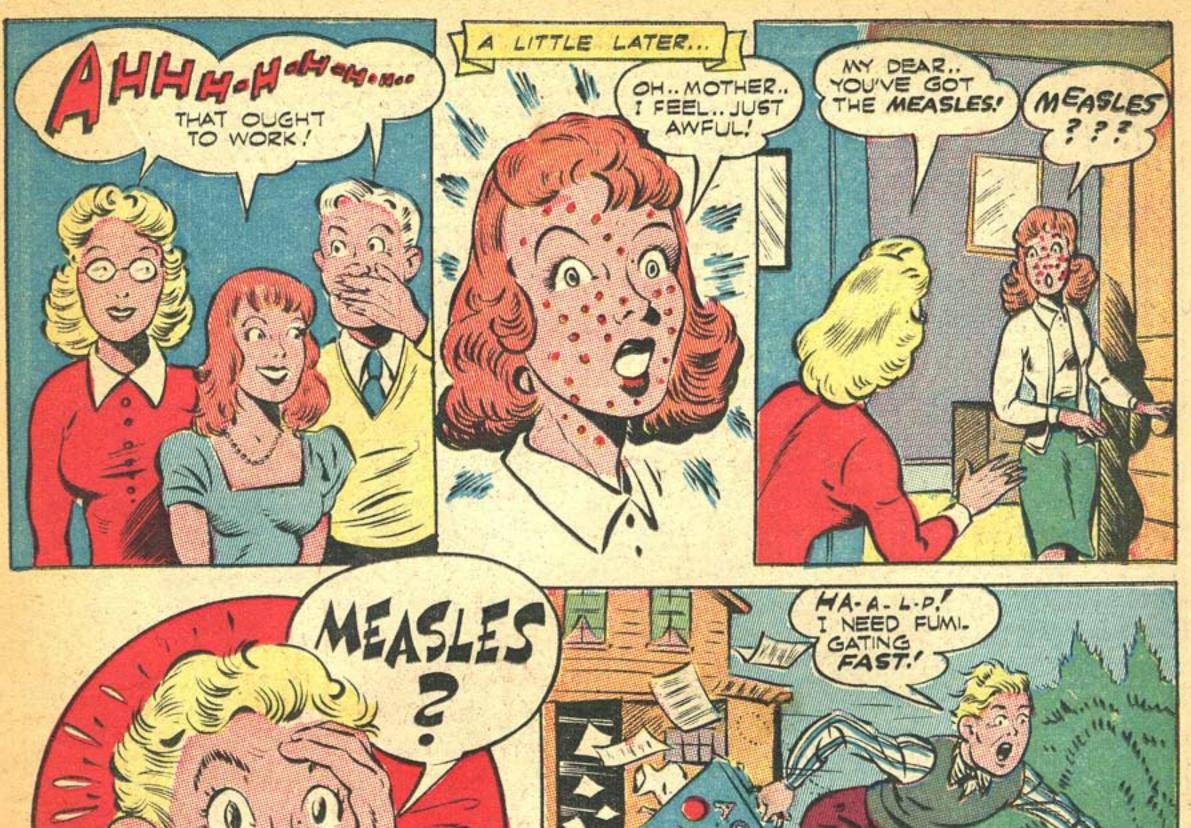


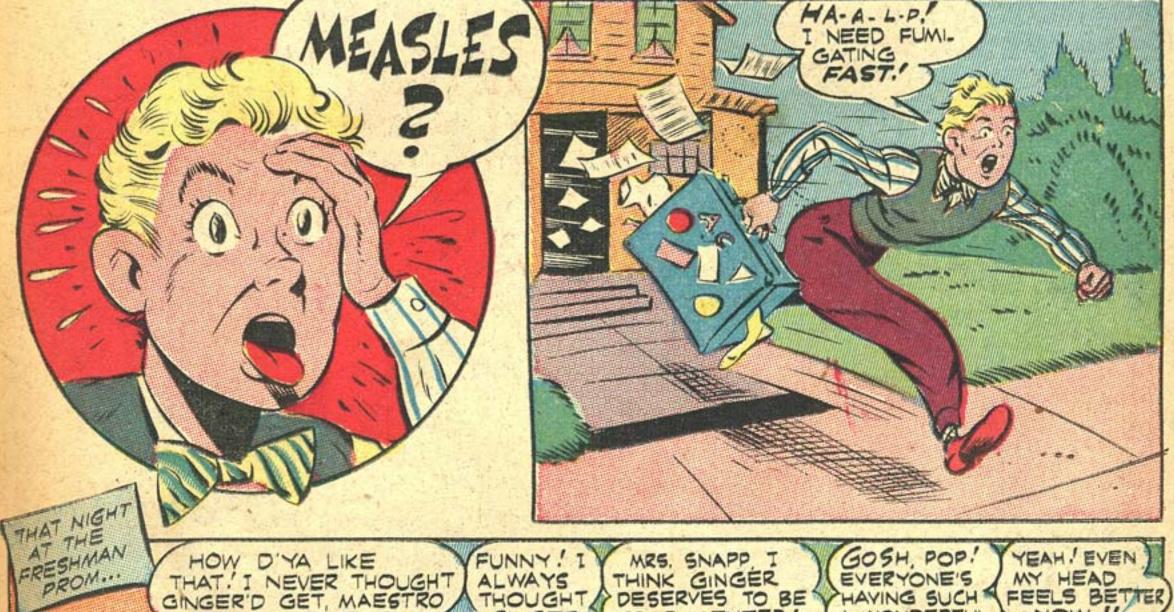












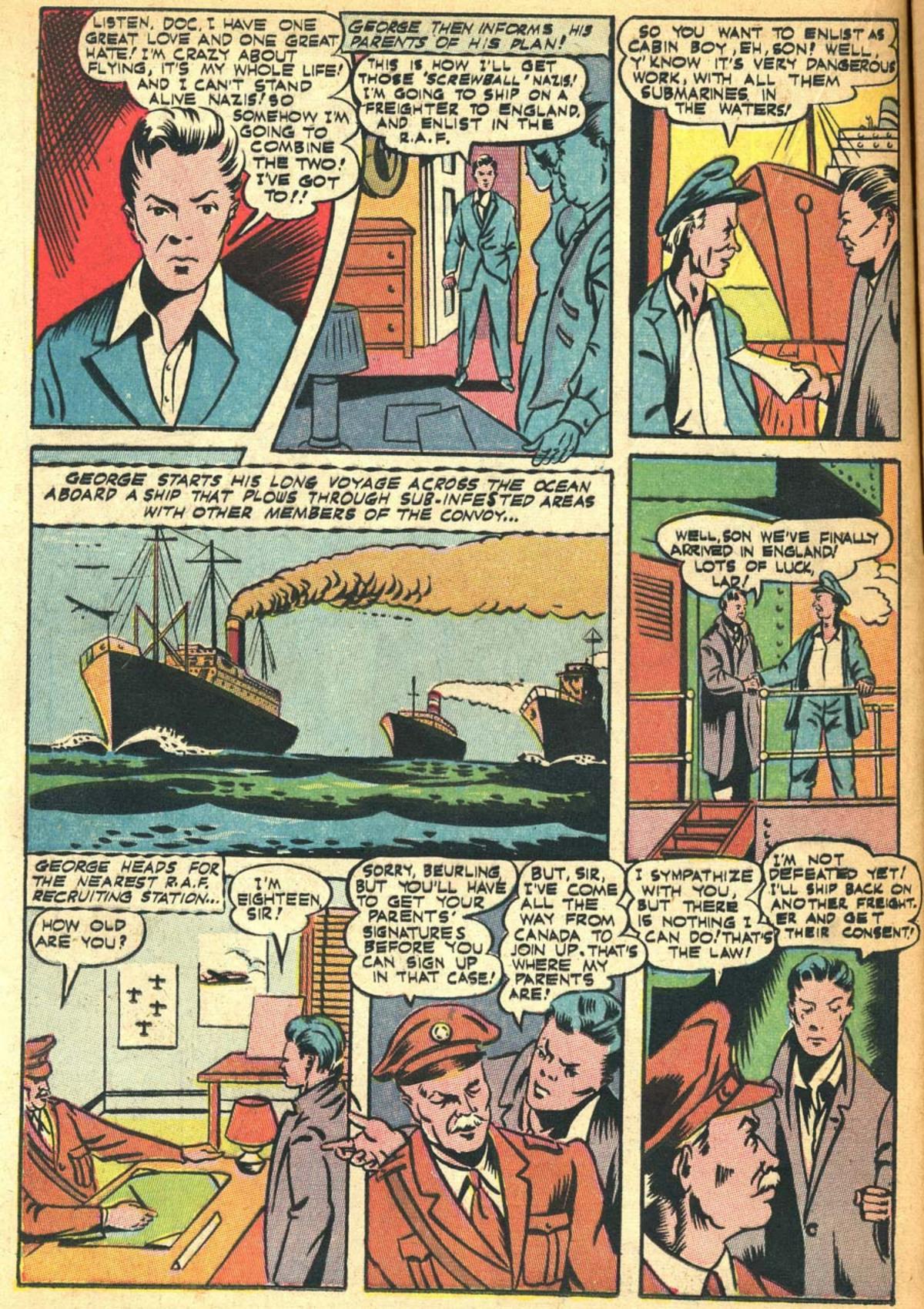




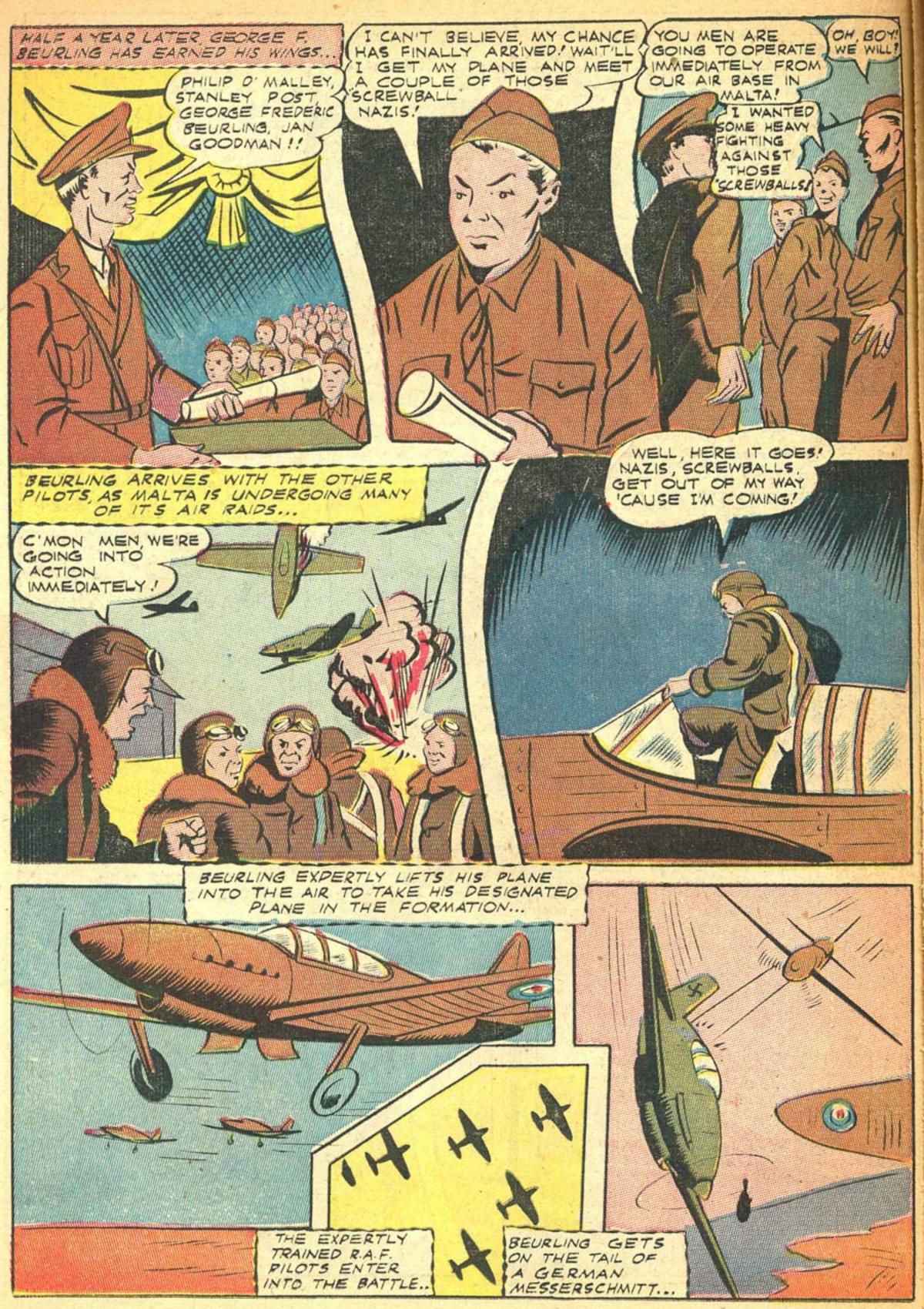
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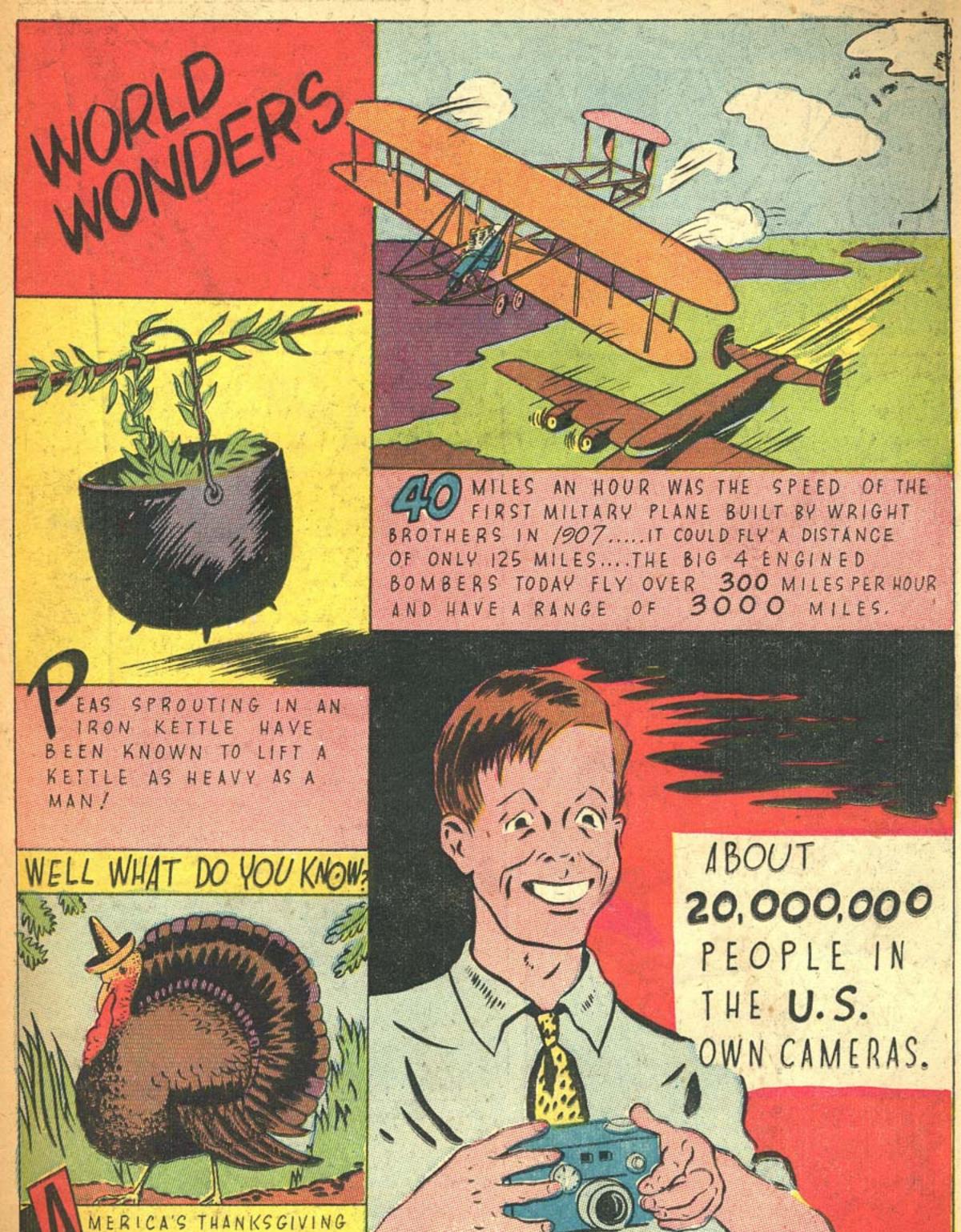












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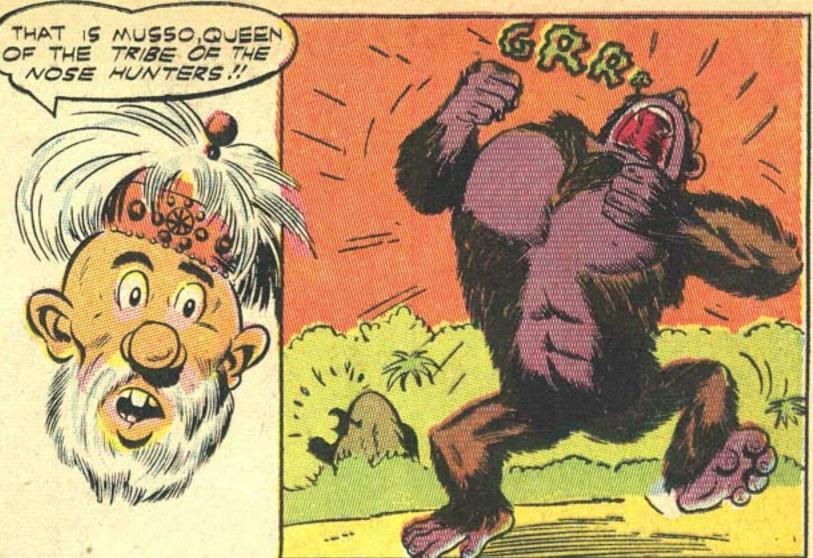
TURKEY DIDN'T COME

BUT FROM MEXICO!

FROM NEW ENGLAND AT ALL.













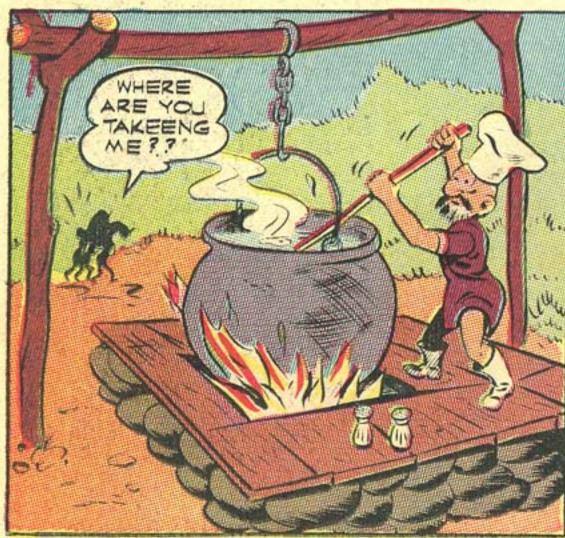






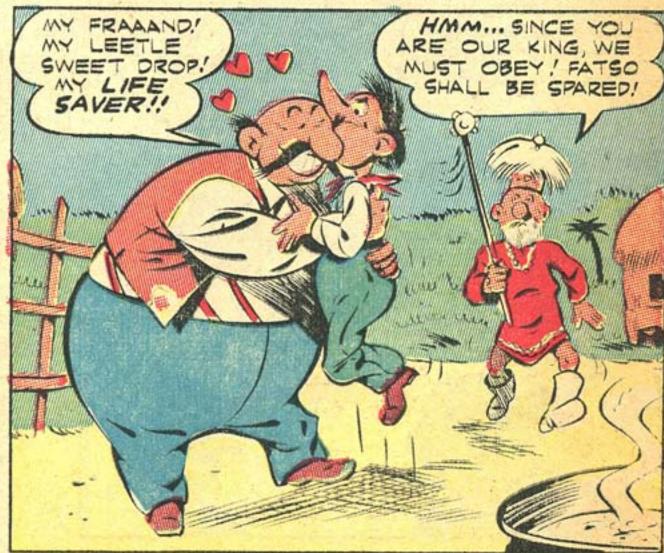




















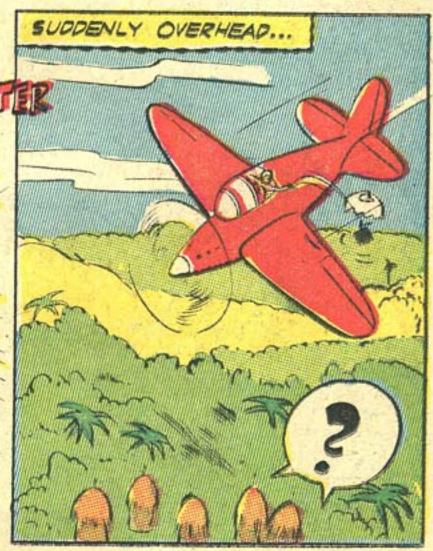
THEENK

HAIL













WHAT'S IN THE

SAMPLES, SILK STOCKINGS, OR JUST STUFF!

SENOR BANANA

SENOR ODORA

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